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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1913

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
OLD AND NEW AIMS AND METHODS OF
MORPHOLOGY¹

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for
review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-
on-Hudson, N. Y.

"ADDRESS your audience about what you
yourself happen to be most interested in,
speak from the fullness of your heart and
make a clean breast of your troubles."
That seemed good advice, and I shall en-
deavor to follow it, taking for my text old
and new aims and methods of morphology,
with special reference to resemblances in
function and structure on the part of
organs and their owners in the animal
kingdom. First, however, allow me to tell
you what has brought me to such a well-
worn theme. Amongst the many impres-
sions which it has been my good luck to
gather during my travels in that enchant-
ing country Mexico are the two following:

First, the poisonous coral snakes, *Elaps*,
in their beautiful black, red and yellow
garb; it varies in detail in the various spe-
cies of *Elaps*, and this garb with most of
the variations too, occurs also in an aston-
ishing number of genera and families of
semi-poisonous and quite harmless Mexican
snakes, some of which inhabit the same dis-
tricts. A somewhat exhaustive study of
these beauties has shown incontestably that
these often astoundingly close resemblances
are not cases of mimicry, but due to some
other cooperations.

Secondly, in the wilds of the state of
Michoacan, at two places, about 20 and 70
miles from the Pacific coast, I myself col-
lected specimens of *Typhlops* which Dr.

¹ Address of the president to the Zoological Sec-
tion of the British Association for the Advance-
ment of Science, Birmingham, 1913.